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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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May 10, 2022

The Honorable Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Benjamin Allen:

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED – ASSEMBLY BILL 661 (BENNETT) AS AMENDED ON
JANUARY 24, 2022 – RECYCLING: MATERIALS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Assembly Bill 661 (AB 661), as amended on January 24, 2022, **if it is further amended** to include the recommendations in this letter.

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would require a state agency, if fitness and quality are equal, to purchase recycled products instead of nonrecycled products, without regard to cost. The bill would substantially revise State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) to establish new, temporary recycled content standards in statute for materials purchased by the state and expands SABRC to services contracts. The bill would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS), to update a list of products and minimum recycled content percentages, as determined to be appropriate, commencing January 1, 2026, and every three years thereafter. The bill would establish product categories and minimum content and recyclability requirements, effective January 1, 2023, until updated by CalRecycle. The bill would require DGS, in collaboration with CalRecycle, to establish a requirement to offer products that meet the SABRC postconsumer minimum percentage requirements to state agencies that utilize their statewide contracts.

The Task Force recommends amending the bill to provide up to 15 percent cost preference rather than unlimited cost preference for procurement of recycled products. The 15 percent cost preference is generally a discount that is being considered as reasonable by many local governments.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** AB 661 **if amended** to include the recommendation in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammass, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Assembly Member Benett
Each Member and staff of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force